

*Sub A7*

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A membership management method in a membership management system comprising at least one user terminal connected via a network, a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites, and a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information to one service provision site by using said user terminal, the application-requested service provision site registers at least a part of the membership information into a database held by the service provision site, and when this membership information has not yet been registered in a database held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center also registers this membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center.

2. A membership management system comprising at least one user terminal connected via a network, a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites, and a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein each service provision site comprises: membership registration guidance display means for requesting a user to register membership information; means for guiding the user to obtain from a user terminal the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on the guidance of the membership registration guidance display means; means for requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information; means for obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and means for posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password that have been

authenticated by the integrated membership management center.

3. The membership management system according to Claim 2, wherein the integrated membership management center comprises: means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when this means has received from a service provision site a request for registering membership information; means for preparing a user ID and a password and adding these to a database when there is no record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching; means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services of the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching; and means for posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site.

4. The membership management system according to Claim 2, wherein the membership registration guidance display means requests a user to input items of membership information that are necessary for the integrated membership management center even if these pieces of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

5. An integrated membership management center that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites and to at least one user terminal via a network, the integrated membership management center comprising a database for registering new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from a user terminal.

6. The integrated membership management center according to Claim 5, further comprising: means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when this means has received from a service

provision site a request for registering membership information; means for preparing a user ID and a password and adding these to a database when there is no record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching; means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services of the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the registration-requested membership information as a result of the searching; and means for posting the user ID and the password to the service provision site.

7. A service provision site comprising: membership registration guidance display means for requesting a user to register membership information; means for guiding the user to obtain from a user terminal the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on the guidance of the membership registration guidance display means; means for requesting an integrated membership management center to register the membership information; means for obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and means for posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password that have been authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership registration guidance display means requests the user to input items of membership information that are necessary for the integrated membership management center even if these pieces of information are not necessary for the service provision site.